



March 2014 Update

The project's leadership spent much of the time in March 2014 dealing with the JP Morgan Chase (JPMC) cancellation of our contract with them for implementation and hosting of online WIC EBT. Vermont WIC is attempting to exercise a section of the recent bid for SNAP EBT services, that included proposals for hosting WIC EBT as well. The winning bidder, Xerox, is one of the few WIC EBT vendors available, with the departure of JPMC from this market segment. Because SNAP and WIC EBT are so different, require separate cards and different retail vendor networks (WIC's is far smaller), and because WIC and SNAP are operated by two different state agencies, there are many complexities to work through. We are still hopeful of replacing JPM with the new vendor quickly enough to avoid schedule slippage. We will post any news about the contract on our Retail Vendor Blog: <http://vermontwicebt.com>

Ciber set up a Ceres "Prep Site" for Vermont, allowing us to start working on the many configurations needed to "Vermontize" the system. One of the first big tasks was successfully completed in March: Retail Vendor Manager Patrick Henry worked with Ciber to create and convert the current retail vendor database, and upload it to the Ceres "Prep Site." Ceres is now the "system of record" for our retail vendors, and replaces several spreadsheets and a drawer full of file folders. Congratulations, Patrick!

Our nutritionists and other state staff are beginning to tackle other configuration issues such as creation of security roles, nutrition prompts, lists of nutrition education materials, food rules and food packages, and risk factors.

Readiness Coordinators in the District Offices are conducting site surveys of all outreach clinics to help prepare for implementation of Ceres in these outlying locations. We are assessing how of these clinics can be connected directly to Ceres via WI-FI, versus operate from the laptop in "disconnected mode," with data collected at clinic uploaded upon return to the District Office.

Ciber presented Vermont WIC with amended Detailed Functional Design Documents (DFDDs) on schedule in March. The amended DFDDs reflect changes necessary to the MPSC MIS in order to interface with an online EBT Host, specifically, the Xerox "e-WIC" solution. Vermont and Ciber reviewed the documents in a series of meetings the last week in March. Because the MPSC code is governed by a multi-state User Group (the MPSC User Group), Ciber's activities involved in changing the MPSC base code to enable interfacing with online WIC EBT have been established in a contract between the User Group and Ciber, and will be removed from the contract between Vermont and Ciber. The User Group will be responsible for approving the amended DFDDs before Ciber can begin development. (Vermont WIC belongs to the MPSC User Group, but under its charter provisions, is not a voting Board member until the system is rolled out.)